

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

EA-06 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-10 NEA-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-06 NIC-01 SAJ-01 /110 W

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R 241917Z JAN 75

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 5141

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

CONFIDENTIAL OECD PARIS 02157

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, RO, OECD

SUBJECT: RUMANIAN INTEREST IN OBSERVER STATUS

1. AT HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING AFTERNOON JANUARY 24 SECRETARY-GENERAL VAN LE-NEP REPORTED THAT IN DECEMBER DIRECTOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS DIVISION OECD HAD RECEIVED CALL FROM SECOND SECRETARY OF RUMANIAN EMBASSY IN PARIS. HE HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THAT COUNTRY RECEIVING OVSERVER STATUS IN ORGANIZATION SIMILAR TO THAT NOW HELD BY YUGOSLAVIA. FOLLOWING A GENERALLY NON-COMMITAL REPLY BY THE DER, RUMANIAN INDICATED HE WOULD RETURN IN NEAR FUTURE TO LEARN OF GENERAL RESPONSE THIS OVER-TURE AND DETERMINE IF TIME IS RIGHT FOR A MORE OFFICIAL DEMARCHE. IT WAS ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT A HIGHLY TENTATIVE AND INFORMAL CONTACT HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY ANOTHER MIDDLE LEVEL SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL LAST SUMMER.

2. IN ENSUING DISCUSSION BY AMBASSADORS THERE WERE SERIES OF OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING NEED FOR GREAT CAUTION AND FAR-REACHING POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS QUESTION, WHICH FAR TRANSCENDED RUMANIA'S REQUEST

FOR OBSERVER STATUS. IT WAS OBVIOUSLY RECOGNIZED BY A MAJORITY OF HEADS OF DELEGATION PRESENT THAT OPENING THE MEMBERSHIP QUESTION NOW WOULD PROBABLY NECESSITATE CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FROM NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH WOULD HAVE EQUALLY GOOD CLAIMS ON ELIGIBILITY INCLUDING CANDIDATES FROM MIDDLE EAST AND LATIN AMERICA.

3. THE ONLY DELEGATIONS WHICH APPEARED TO REACT INITIALLY IN AFFIRMATIVE MANNER, ALTHOUGH ADMITTEDLY WITHOUT INSTRUCTION, WERE ITALY AND PORTUGAL. ITALIAN AMBASSADOR SAID IN LIGHT OF HIS GOVT'S POSITION AT TIME OF LAST RUMANIAN INQUIRY IN L971, GOI WOULD PROBABLY FAVOR THEIR CANDIDACY IN PRINCIPLE. PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT NATION'S GREAT INTEREST IN DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOR AND THAT THIS TYPE OF ADDITIONAL CONTACT WOULD PROBABLY BE REGARDED IN FAVORABLE LIGHT.

4. SECY-GENERAL RECALLED THAT SERIOUS OPPOSITION TO GOR FEELERS OF 1971 HAD BEEN EXPRESSED BY REPRESENTATIVE FROM YUGOSLAVIA. DANISH AMBASSADOR STATED THAT PREVIOUSLY INTEREST OF GOR IN FINAL ANALYSIS WAS IN MORE MARGINAL OECD PROGRAMS SUCH AS TOURISM RATHER THAN IN PRINCIPAL SUBSTANTIVE AREAS. OTHER CONCERNS WERE EXPRESSED ABOUT ADMISSION OF A NON-MARKET ECONOMY NATION AND A MEMBER OF COMECON.

5. IT WAS GENERALLY CONCLUDED THAT BECAUSE OF HIGHLY POLITICAL NATURE OF THIS QUESTION, FUTURE APPLICATIONS SHOULD INITIALLY BE CONSIDERED IN HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETINGS IN ORDER TO REDUCE UNDESIRED PUBLICITY THAT SUCH A DISCUSSION MIGHT ENGENDER IN THE COUNCIL.

6. AMBASSADOR GALLAGHER OF UK SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS COUNCIL WORKING PARTY ON EAST-WEST RELATIONS SHOULD BE REDESIGNATED TO BE COUNCIL WORKING PARTY ON RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES TO PRELIMINARILY ENTERTAIN SUCH OVERTURES IN FUTURE. ALTHOUGH THIS IDEA WAS SECONDED BY AMBASSADOR VALERY OF FRANCE AND SOME CONFIDENTIAL

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INTEREST EXPRESSED, IT SEEMED TO BE A BROADER CONSENSUS THAT BECAUSE OF IMPORTANCE OF THIS MATTER POLITICALLY AND ITS FAR-REACHING IMPLICATIONS TO HOMOGENEITY, COMPOSITION AND EFFECTIVENESS OF OECD, IT WAS PROBABLY PREFERENTIAL TO CONSIDER SUCH QUESTIONS IN HEADS OF DELEGATION SESSIONS WHICH ARE BY DEFINITION INFORMAL AND OFF THE RECORD.

7. IT IS INTENTION OF SECY-GENERAL TO ENTERTAIN ANY  
SUBSEQUENT CONTACTS BY GOR IN EXTREMELY LOW KEY FASHION,  
AS WARRANTED BY TENOR OF DISCUSSION, AND TO REPORT BACK  
TO COUNCIL IN EVENT A MORE FORMALIZED DEMARCHE IS  
RECEIVED.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEMBER ADMISSIONS, MEETING OBSERVERS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RUMANIAN INTEREST IN OBSERVER STATUS  
**TAGS:** PORG, RO, OECD  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006